

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1464

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3763

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN YO RQ

SUBJ: COMMITTEE OF 24 AND PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 3757

1. REFTEL DEALT WITH DIFFUSE RANGE OF NATIONAL REACTIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY USG. ON LOOKING IT OVER I BELIEVE IT COULD HAVE BEEN A TIGHTER MESSAGE. IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS ANY DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND AS TO AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S (AND MY) DESIRE FOR STRONG ACTION WITH RESPECT TO COUNTRIES THAT VOTED AGAINST OR ABSTAINED ON ADJOURNMENT OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN COMMITTEE OF 24, THEN LET THIS TELEGRAM DISPEL IT.

2. WE MADE THE MOST SERIOUS REPRESENTATIONS IN MY USUN MEMORY, TELLING ALMOST TWO DOZEN GOVERNMENTS THAT WE WOULD REGARD A VOTE SUPPORTIVE OF CUBA'S MANEUVERS ON PUERTO RICO AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT. TO ANY GOVERNMENT EVEN VAGUELY COGNIZANT OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE THAT IS AN APPROACH OF HIGH CONSEQUENCE. SINCE NINE GOVERNMENTS CHOSE TO DISREGARD OUR REPRESENTATIONS AND VOTED AGAINST US AND TWO MORE ABSTAINED, THERE SHOULD BE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES. GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD WERE LEFT IN NO DOUBT AS TO UTMOST SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE REGARDED THIS EFFORT TO INTERFERE FLAGRANTLY IN U.S. INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NOT TO
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FOLLOW UP NOW WOULD INDICATE TO ALL THAT WE DIDN'T REALLY

MEAN WHAT WE SAID, DIDN'T REALLY CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT THE ISSUE. THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE ANY FUTURE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY US ON BEHALF OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS WOULD BE BLUFFING. WE SHALL PAY THROUGH THE NOSE IN THE LONG RUN IF WE DO NOT ACT NOW TO CARRY OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR EARLIER REPRESENTATIONS. BOTH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND I ASSUME THERE WILL BE ACTIONS IN APPROPRIATE CAPITALS BY USG WITHOUT DELAY.

3. REF PARAGRAPH 3 REFTTEL, WE TOLD THE USSR THERE WOULD BE CONSEQUENCES TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN VIEW EXTREME SENSITIVITY AND SERIOUSNESS THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY WITH SECRETARY ENGAGED IN DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST, DEPARTMENT WILL KNOW BEST HOW TO PROCEED ON THIS. FOR BULGARIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO CANCEL VISITS AND TAKE ACTIONS IN OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS--TRADE OR WHAT HAVE YOU--TO SHOW OUR DISPLEASURE AND TO MAKE IT CLEAR WE WERE NOT FOOLING.

4. REF PARAGRAPH 4 REFTTEL, AID TO MALI AND TANZANIA SHOULD BE CUT AND CUT NOW. I AM SURE THERE ARE OTHER ACTIONS WHICH WILL OCCUR TO DEPARTMENT WHICH SHOULD AND COULD BE TAKEN. A DELAY IN RECEIVING THE NEW MALIAN AMBASSADOR AT THE WHITE HOUSE OR LEAVING THE MEBASSY IN DAR VACANT ARE POSSIBLE ACTIONS THAT COME TO MIND. WE WOULD NOT TIE CUTS IN AID OR OTHER ACTIONS DIRECTLY TO THIS VOTE. THE THING TO DO IS TO TAKE THE ACTION IMMEDIATELY AND LET THEM WONDER WHY. ANY GUY SMART ENOUGH OR WELL ENOUGH CONNECTED TO BE FOREIGN MINISTER OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT.

5. REF PARAGRAPH 5 REFTTEL, YUGOSLAVIA WAS ONE OF PRINCIPAL VILLAINS IN THE PIECE AND PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE METED OUT ACCORDINGLY. YUGOSLAV SLIPPERINESS ON UN MATTERS INVOLVING IMPORTANT U.S. INTERESTS IS AN OLD STORY, AND WE SHOULD LET THEM KNOW WE ARE CEASING OUR INDULGENCE OF THEIR BEHAVIOR IN THIS ASPECT OF OUR RELATIONS. OBVIOUSLY ONLY SECRETARY CAN JUDGE THIS ONE, BUT IN OUR VIEW TITO SHOULD BE TOLD HE CANNOT AFTER THIS ACTION EXPECT AID IN AMOUNTS REQUESTED RECENTLY OF PRESIDENT. IT'S ALL RIGHT TO TIE THIS ONE
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TOGETHER.

6. REF PARAGRAPH 6 REFTTEL, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WILL SQUEAL, BUT, AS WE SAID IN REFTTEL, WE DO NOT INTERFERE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS; THEY SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN OURS. THE EXCUSE OF NON-LAIGNMENT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SERVE AS AN UMBRELLA FOR THIS SORT OF ACTIVITY ON THEIR PART.

7. REF PARAGRAPH 7 REFTTEL, WITH RESPECT TO ETHIOPIA, WE HAD A CLEAR PROMISE FROM THEIR REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE WOULD BACK MOTION TO ADJOURN AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO SO. THREE OTHER AFRICAN STATES VOTED IN FAVOR, AS DID SEVERAL OTHER NON-ALIGNED STATES. THE SITUATION WAS NOT SUCH AS TO REQUIRE THE BRAVERY OF ONE OF THE OLD EMPEROR'S LIONS. ETHIOPIA WANTS FAVORS AND AID FROM US. BREAKING A PROMISE IS NOT A WAY TO GET THEM. ETHIOPIA SHOULD BE TOLD THAT, IF SHE GETS ANY AID FROM US, IT WILL BE LESS THAN SHE WOULD HAVE GOT BEFORE THIS BEHAVIOR.

8. I HOPE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS WILL BE HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT IN DECIDING ON IMMEDIATE ACTIONS IN PERTINENT COUNTRIES.

9. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN STATES THAT HE WHOLLY CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.
BENNETT

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